

SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK MARCH 3-9, 2002

Severe Weather Awareness Week in Indiana is March 3-9, 2002

SPRING, 2002

Governor Frank O'Bannon has proclaimed March 3-9, 2002 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Indiana. In keeping with the 2002 National Weather Service communications theme *Working Together to Save Lives*, the National Weather Service, in conjunction with the Indiana State Police, Indiana State Emergency Management, the Indiana School System, the broadcast media across Indiana, and amateur radio operators will conduct a statewide test of communications systems on **Wednesday March 6 between 200 and 230 P.M. EST and between 700 and 730 P.M. EST.**

The goals of Severe Weather Awareness Week are to educate about the hazards of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, to help everyone be prepared when severe weather strikes, and to have an understanding of severe weather terms and tornado safety rules.

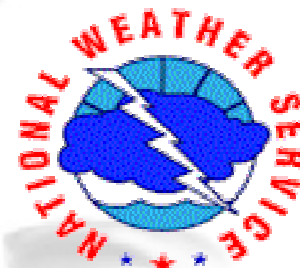
Daily statements will be issued on newswires and NOAA Weather Radio during the week. The Northern Indiana National Weather Service Office (WFO IWX) and surrounding National Weather Service offices will be available throughout the week for interviews or questions. Tornado drill details can be found on page 2 of this publication.

Sources of Weather Data

National Weather Service Doppler Radar - Base Reflectivity, Composite Reflectivity, and One Hour and Storm Total Precipitation products are now available on the Internet. Visit your local NWS office homepage and look for the Radar link or go to <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/radar>.

Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services (AHPS) - AHPS is a web-based suite of accurate and information-rich forecast products containing: current and forecast flow/stage, current and forecast precipitation, impact, and historical information. Visit your local NWS office homepage and look for the River Info/AHPS link.

Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN) - NWS forecasts, warnings, and other weather-related information can be obtained and displayed on a PC in nearly real time through EMWIN. For more information go to <http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov/emwin/index.htm>.



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NWS Contacts

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NWS Indianapolis
WCM

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Wanted Severe Weather Spotters

For a training session near you, click on the 2002 Calendar link on the WFO IWX Internet Homepage.

Severe Weather Terms and Definitions

Warning — A product issued by the NWS indicating that a particular weather hazard is either imminent or is occurring. A warning indicates the need to take immediate action to protect life and property. Typical warnings include *tornado warning*, *severe thunderstorm warning*, and *flash flood warning*.

Watch — A product issued by the NWS indicating that conditions are favorable for a particular weather hazard. A watch is usually issued for a time period of several hours and indicates a need for planning, preparation, and an increased awareness of changing weather conditions. Typical watches include: *tornado watch*, *severe thunderstorm watch*, and *flash flood watch*.

Tornado — A violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground, descending from the base of a severe thunderstorm.

Severe Thunderstorm — A thunderstorm that produces a tornado, damaging winds of 58 mph or higher, and/or hail at least three-quarters of an inch in diameter.

Flash flood — A flood which happens within a few hours after a heavy rainfall or from the failure of a dam, levee, or ice jam.

Flood — A flood occurs when water overflows the confines of a stream or body of water, or accumulates in poorly drained low-lying or urban areas.

Funnel cloud — A violently rotating column of air that does not reach the ground. If the funnel cloud reaches the ground, it becomes a tornado.

Straight line winds — Thunderstorm wind that produces damage with little indication of any rotation, as opposed to tornado-produced damage that does exhibit a rotational damage pattern.

Downburst — A strong downdraft that exits the base of a thunderstorm and hits the earth's surface, resulting in strong gusty winds that may cause property damage.

Squall line — Any narrow band of thunderstorms...sometimes as much as several hundred miles long.

Gust front — The leading edge of a mass of cool, gusty air that flows ahead of a thunderstorm.

Waterspout — A rotating column of air descending from the base of a cumulus cloud over a large body of water, that reaches the water surface.

Cold air funnels — Weak funnel clouds that typically remain aloft. They form in cold unstable air masses and are not generally associated with severe thunderstorms.

Tornado Facts

- ▽ Tornadoes can occur at any time of the year
- ▽ Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 300 and 900 PM, but have been known to occur at all hours of the day and night
- ▽ The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction
- ▽ The average forward speed is 30 mph, but may vary from nearly stationary to 70 mph
- ▽ Indiana averages 20 tornadoes and 4 tornado fatalities each year

Tornado Distribution and Characteristics

Weak Tornadoes (F0,F1)

- ▽ 88% of all tornadoes
- ▽ Less than 5% of deaths
- ▽ Lifetime of 1-10+ minutes
- ▽ Winds less than 110 mph

Strong Tornadoes (F2,F3)

- ▽ 11% of all tornadoes
- ▽ Nearly 30% of deaths
- ▽ May last 20 minutes or longer
- ▽ Winds of 110-205 mph

Violent Tornadoes (F4,F5)

- ▽ Less than 1% of all tornadoes
- ▽ Approximately 70% of all tornado deaths
- ▽ Lifetime may exceed 1 hour
- ▽ Winds greater than 205 mph

Tornado Facts for the WFO IWX CWFA

- ▽ An average of 8 tornadoes occur per year
- ▽ The peak month for tornado occurrence is June
- ▽ Nearly 90 percent of the tornadoes occur between noon and midnight.

Did You Know?

In an average year, 1,200 tornadoes cause 70 fatalities and 1,500 injuries nationwide.

Tornado Safety Rules

At Home

- ▽ Move to the interior of the lowest floor possible
- ▽ Stay away from windows
- ▽ Interior bathrooms offer excellent shelter
- ▽ Leave mobile homes immediately, and proceed to the nearest designated shelter

At School or Work

- ▽ Move students quickly into interior hallways on the lowest floor
- ▽ Stay out of rooms with large free-span ceilings such as gymnasiums and cafeterias
- ▽ Keep children at school beyond regular hours if severe weather is expected

In a Vehicle

- ▽ Never try to outrun a tornado. They can change speed and direction without warning
- ▽ Leave the vehicle and find nearby safe shelter
- ▽ If no shelter is available, crouch in a ditch or ravine, covering your head. Be wary of flash flooding.

Flood/Flash Flood Facts

- #1 weather-related killer in the United States...more than 140 fatalities each year
- Responsible for billions of dollars in damage each year
- Most deaths occur at night and when people become trapped in automobiles

Did You Know?

A water depth of two feet will cause most vehicles to float.

Flood/Flash Flood Safety

- If flooding is observed or a warning is issued, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately
- Never let children play near high water, storm drains, or viaducts
- Never drive through flooded roadways as the road bed may not be intact under the flood waters
- If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground
- Be especially cautious at night when it is more difficult to recognize flood dangers
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes

Lightning Facts

- Responsible for 73 fatalities and 300 injuries each year nationwide
- Causes several hundred million dollars in damage to property annually
- Most lightning fatalities and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors in the summer months during the afternoon and evening

Did You Know?

Counting the number of seconds between a flash of lightning and the next clap of thunder, then dividing this number by 5, will determine the distance to the lightning in miles

Lightning Safety

- Check the forecast before leaving for extended periods outdoors
- Watch for signs of approaching storms
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent
- If you can hear thunder, seek shelter in a building or car immediately
- Get out of boats and away from water
- Avoid using the telephone or other electrical appliances
- If caught outside, find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles
- If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stands on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet

30/30 Lightning

Rule: *If after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder, stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.*



Voice of the National Weather Service

Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) codes for programmable weather radios:

Northern Indiana

Adams 018001
 Allen 018003
 Blackford 018009
 Cass 018017
 Dekalb 018033
 Elkhart 018039
 Fulton 018049
 Grant 018053
 Huntington 018069
 Jay 018075
 Kosciusko 018085
 Lagrange 018087
 La Porte 018091
 Marshall 018099
 Miami 018103
 Noble 018113
 Pulaski 018131
 St. Joseph 018141
 Starke 018149
 Steuben 018151
 Wabash 018169
 Wells 018179
 Whitley 018183
 White 018181

Northwest Ohio

Allen 039003
 Defiance 039039
 Fulton 039051
 Henry 039069
 Paulding 039125
 Putnam 039137
 Williams 039161
 Van Wert 039171

Southwest Michigan

Berrien 026021
 Branch 026023
 Cass 026027
 St. Joseph 026149
 Hillsdale 026059

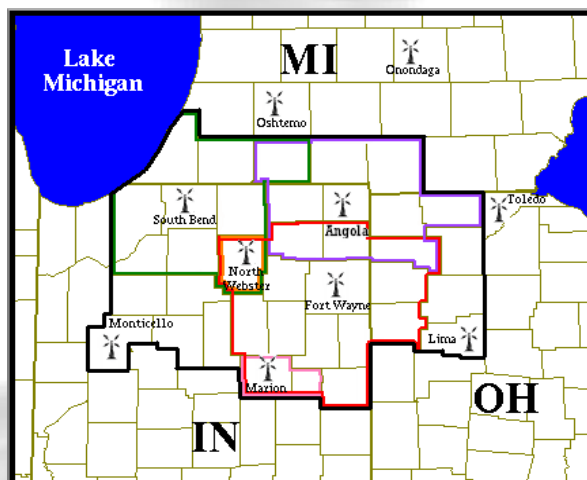
LIGHTNING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 28-MAY 4, 2002

Summer is the peak season for one of the nation's deadliest weather phenomena - lightning. Safeguarding U.S. residents from dangerous lightning is the goal of NOAA's new public awareness campaign - "Lightning Kills, Play it Safe." The campaign is designed to lower lightning death and injury rates and America's vulnerability to one of nature's deadliest hazards.

In the United States, an average of 73 people are killed each year by lightning. That's more than the annual number of people killed by tornadoes or hurricanes. Many more are struck, but survive. However, they often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms, including memory loss, attention deficits, sleep disorders, numbness, dizziness, stiffness in joints, irritability, fatigue, weakness, muscle spasms, depression, and an inability to sit for long. Lightning also causes about \$5 billion dollars of economic loss each year in the U.S.

The vast majority of lightning casualties can be easily, quickly, and cheaply avoided if only the public knew what to do.

The purpose of Lightning Safety Awareness Week is to increase awareness of lightning hazards and educate about lightning safety. To learn how to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your belongings, visit the Lightning Safety web page at: <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov>.



NWR Frequencies

Angola.....	162.425 MHz
Fort Wayne.....	162.550 MHz
Lima.....	162.400 MHz
Marion.....	162.450 MHz
Monticello.....	162.475 MHz
North Webster.....	162.500 MHz
Onondaga.....	162.400 MHz
Oshtemo.....	162.475 MHz
South Bend.....	162.400 MHz

Did You Know?

Special needs NOAA Weather Radios designed to meet the needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing are available.

For more information, visit the NOAA Weather Radio Web Site at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr>.

For special needs NOAA Weather Radio information, visit <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/~wood/NWR/spc-nds-nwr>.

Internet Sites and Contacts

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

<http://www.noaa.gov>



National Weather Service

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

National Weather Service Northern Indiana

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/iwx>

National Weather Service Indianapolis

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ind>

National Weather Service Office of Meteorology
Severe Weather Awareness Page

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/severeweather>

National Weather Service Office of Hydrology

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh>

Storm Prediction Center

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov>

National Hurricane Center

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

NOAA Weather Radio

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr>

Skywarn

<http://www.skywarn.org>

Indiana State Emergency Management Agency

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Indiana Department of Education

Director of School Traffic Safety - Pete Baxter

317-232-0890

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Federal Emergency Management Agency

<http://www.fema.gov/mit>



American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/disaster/safety>

Interactive Weather Information Network

<http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov/emwin/index.htm>

Indiana State Emergency Management Agency

<http://www.in.gov/sema>

Indiana State Police

<http://www.in.gov/isp>

Indiana Department of Education

<http://ideanet.doe.state.in.us/safety>

Climate Prediction Center

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>

National Climatic Data Center

<http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>

Midwest Climate Center

<http://mcc.sws.uiuc.edu>

Amateur Radio Emergency Services SKYWARN

Coordinator - Mark Shaffer

317-242-3617

E-mail - n9gdr@iquest.net

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

Dave Crockett

317-390-2447

E-mail - ddc@iquest.net

National Weather Service Northern Indiana

IMO Amateur Radio Coordinator - Patrick Murphy

574-834-1104

E-mail - kb8qev@usa.net

Emergency Alert System

Chairman Indiana SECC - George Molnar Jr.

574-631-1616

E-mail - gmolnar@nd.edu

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**On the Web
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